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Ophthalmic Literature

VOL. III. MAY, 1913. NO. 5.

Edited by EDWARD JACKSON. Assisted by WILLIAM H. CRISP.

DELAYED REVIEWS AND ABSTRACTS.

When the Ophthalmic Year Book was first started it was pointed out by one of its friends that such a publication, not appearing until four or five months after the end of the year with which it dealt, was too slow. (This comment came from Philadelphia). The matter was looked into then, and it was found that the Year Book, although compelled to notice some things that had been published more than a year previously, averaged about the same interval after original publication as did the review departments of the quarterly and monthly journals. The men who offered this criticism continue to tolerate delays of greater length in the publications that appear more frequently.

There is room for complaint for lack of promptness in both cases. But it does not come with a good grace from the members of societies which permit even greater delays in the publication of their transactions. For instance, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology met at Niagara Falls, August 20, 1912, with its volume of transactions appearing in May, 1913, eight months afterward. Here is a volume of 445 pages, the material for which (if the Academy's rules were observed) was all prepared and collected at the time of the meeting, except the stenographer's report of discussions, which were written up a few days later. This is 50 per cent more time than has been consumed in the writing and printing of the Year Book, prepared in different parts of the world and edited at a long distance from the publishing centers. In this the Academy differs but little from the average of ophthalmological societies that publish volumes of transactions.

The Section on Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association issues its presession volume of papers to be presented, with great advantage to the interest of its meetings. Such a publication would improve the discussions and facilitate the conduct of any scientific meeting. Other sections and other societies have tried it, and have given up the attempt because the members could not be induced to send in their papers at the time set. Only the energy and persistence of the former secretary of the Ophthalmic Section, backed by the fact that if one writer did not send in his paper on time, others were anxious to occupy his place on the program, made it possible to overcome the literary inertia of the members.

For a book there are other things more important than the date of issue. It is expected to have a permanent value. To bring this to a maximum is the first consideration. For periodical publications, those that present only original matter may well be issued in parts at irregular intervals as such matter is ready to present. But for journals that undertake to conduct review departments and to supply cur-

rent news, and which assume a definite date of issue, it is not unreasonable to require them to be published promptly on the date assumed. In this respect there has been a great improvement in the past ten years. The leading monthly and quarterly ophthalmic journals are now rarely more than a month late.

But there is still loose work shown in the review or abstract departments. In the journals that have come to hand in the last month there are some abstracts of papers that appeared in 1909 and 1910. The majority of these journals contain abstracts of papers published in 1911. The 1912 literature claims most space. But in only a few journals are there yet any considerable number of abstracts of articles that have appeared within the last six months. In Ophthalmic Literature thus far we have sought to give abstracts of important articles that had not previously been noticed in English. With the resumption of the Year Book this policy is no longer important. We shall hereafter try the effect of example in promoting promptness of publication in this department.

BOOK NOTICES.

Beard, Charles H., Chicago. OPHTHALMIC SEMIOLOGY AND DIAGNOSIS. 8 vo. 400 pp. 13 colored plates and 71 figures in the text. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son and Co. Price, $4.00 net.

This is one of the series of works issued as a system of ophthalmic practice, and edited by Walter L. Pyle. It therefore corresponds in form to the earlier volumes, Darier's "Ophthalmic Therapeutics" and the "Pathology and Bacteriology" of Collins and Mayou. The consideration of ocular diseases from this standpoint is an extremely practical one. It is symptoms that are first presented to the practicing ophthalmologist, and from them he must make his advance to a scientific understanding of the pathology, the practical relations and the therapeutics of the case.

To learn such a line of thinking, from obvious symptoms to all that they imply, is to become a practical ophthalmologist. This is quite different from studying the phenomena of disease, as they are usually presented in systematic text-books or lectures. Most men that have gotten their knowledge thus organized on the practical basis have accomplished it by watching the daily practice and following the lines of thought of some clinical master. But there is every reason why this should be supplemented by a systematic treatise arranged on these lines.

There are many books on medical diagnosis, but so far as we know the claim made in the preface that "there is no other separate volume in any language devoted exclusively to ocular semiology" is strictly in accordance with the facts. English reading students are to be congratulated that a work of the kind has come from a clinical master like Dr. Beard. No part of it is given to the explanation of instruments and methods of diagnosis. The student must have mastered the usual methods of ophthalmic examination and made himself familiar with the symptoms dealt with, to get the full benefit of this treatise. The practising ophthalmologist, even of large experience, will find it of great value in improving his own methods of clinical examination and ways of thinking about what he sees.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology, Seventeenth Annual Meeting. 8 vo., 445 pp. Illustrated. Lee Masten Francis, secretary, Buffalo, N. Y.

About one-half of this volume is devoted to ophthalmology. Twen-

ty-three papers read at the Niagara Falls meeting and the discussions elicited occupy this portion of the volume. The illustrations show cases, pathological specimens, instruments and apparatus. A list of the officers and fellows of the Academy is included and a table of contents, with index of members taking part in discussions.

But the volume follows the bad example set by some of the more famous European societies of omitting any general index. An index would double the value of the volume as a work of reference, and among the younger fellows of the Academy it would certainly be possible to find one who would be glad to give the labor necessary for a complete index, if he were furnished with the sheets as they came from the press.

PRE-SESSION VOLUME OF THE SECTION ON OPHTHALMOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. Small 8 vo. 384 pages. Illustrated. Chicago, American Medical Association. 1913.

This book is not published, but is printed for distribution for members of the Section on Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association in preparation for the annual meeting at Minneapolis. The twenty-four papers it contains are covered by copyright, and will be published later in the Journal of the American Medical Association and the volume of the Transactions of the Section on Ophthalmology, along with the discussions they elicit, and some other material. We cannot therefore review their subject matter at this time. What we wish to do is to call attention to the work and to point out its exceptional character and value, and the ease with which it may be obtained by many who have not hitherto availed themselves of their opportunity.

It is sent, without cost, to every member of the Section who has shown his interest by attending a meeting within five years. In this case the authors of the papers pay for the book. But printed and distributed as it is, it is altogether the cheapest way of sending out reprints of one's paper that has yet been devised. Then it reaches those most likely to take an interest in the subject, and at the time that interest will be most active. This is the seventh book of the kind that the Section has published. Other medical organizations have tried the plan, but none have continued it for such a length of time, although its value in adding to the interest of the meeting is evident and universally admitted. The pre-session volume of the papers to be discussed always brings out a better discussion. This is now understood by the members of the Section who would not be willing to discontinue its publication. However, its issue presupposes a competent, energetic secretary. This year he is Dr. George S. Derby. But the publication will always be something of a monument to the wisdom and ability of the first secretary who got it out, Dr. Albert E. Bulson.

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Abstracts From Foreign Journals

Baslini, C. New Operative Method for Correction of Cicatricial Entropion of Lower Lid. (Clinica Oculistica, XII, page 1176).

The method proposed is a modification of that of Panas. The first incision is made through the skin and orbicularis muscle and extends the whole length of the lid, parallel with and at about 10 mm. from the ciliary margin. Two vertical incisions reach from the ends of the first to within 2 mm. of the lid margin. An intermarginal incision, 2 mm. deep, is made between the orbicularis muscle and the tarsal plate. The skin and muscle flap is dissected free from below for about a half its height. The flap is then displaced downward, and by a suture at each lateral margin is fixed in such position that the cilia are brought 2 mm. from the lid margin. A 2 mm. strip is excised from the lower border of the skin flap, transported to the raw space at the margin of the lid and fixed there by a few very fine sutures. Sutures are finally placed along the lines of the three original incisions. A dry dressing is applied and both eyes are closed. Three successful cases are reported, in the first two of which the operation dates back six years, and the results are still perfect.

De Kleijn, A., and Nieuwenhuyse, A. Injuries of the Optic Nerve. (Graefe's Archiv f. Ophthalm., LXXXII, page 150).

Referring to enlargement of the blind spot as an early symptom of disturbances of the optic nerve, resulting from disease of the accessory nasal sinuses, the author describes a case in which a central scotoma was caused by a tumor at the optic foramen. After progressive atrophic changes in the left disc had been observed for some time, papilledema developed in the right eye. Opening of the accessory sinuses on the right side showed no disease and produced no beneficial result. At autopsy a large fibro-endothelioma, arising from the dura at the sphenoidal opening, and entirely surrounding the optic foramen, was found. As regards the left eye, the central scotoma and loss of vision were practically the only symptoms, the periphery of the field remaining unaffected. Cases are described in which fracture of the base of the skull was followed by enlargement of the blind spot or by central scotoma; and other cases in which after a like injury contraction of the peripheral field was observed, not functional in character, and accompanied by no change in the ophthalmoscopic appearance. As bearing on the contention of Von Stein that disease

of the labyrinth may produce contraction of the color fields, De Kleijn and Nieuwenhuyse report two cases of injury involving the labyrinth, in which no contraction of the visual fields occurred.

Meisner, W., and Sattler, C. H. Cyclodialysis. (Archiv f. Augenh., LXXI, p. 34).

The results of a series of fifty-four cyclodialysis operations, done in the years 1910 and 1911 at the Königsberg clinic, are carefully analyzed by Meisner and Sattler. These authors regard the operation as easier of execution than iridectomy, especially when the anterior chamber is shallow. Although the ciliary body was detached by means of a flat spatula for about a third of its circumference, in only one instance was the shape of the pupil altered. In fifteen cases the operation was complicated by hemorrhage into the anterior chamber, usually from ruptured anterior ciliary vessels. In eight cases the hemorrhage was absorbed within fourteen days, and the results were good. But the operation was unsuccessful in the other seven cases, in which absorption was slower. Accidental perforation of the uvea did not generally appear to spoil the result. Most of the patients were free from pain after the first few hours following the operation. Partial atrophy of the iris was seen in one case about a year after operation. Post-operative inflammation occurred in an old trachomatous eye, and again in a case of glaucoma following cataract extraction.

As completely successful the authors reckon only those cases in which, after at least three to six months' observation, the tension stayed normal and no deterioration occurred in vision or the visual field. These conditions were fulfilled by fifteen cases, of which five were observed for at least six months and seven for not less than a year. Two out of three of the conditions were satisfied by five further cases. Relapses occurred in ten cases, which had for a time appeared successful. As regards the relative efficiency of the operation in chronic and acute glaucoma, joint consideration of the completely and incompletely satisfactory results suggests that the prospects are most favorable in glaucoma simplex. A comparative study of results of iridectomy and of cyclodialysis done (a) each in one eye of the same patient, or (b) in the order named on one and the same eye, does not argue in favor of either mode of treatment.

Pöllot, W. Sympathetic Ophthalmia With Anatomic Findings in Both Eyes. (Graefe's Archiv f. Ophthalm., LXXXI, page 264).

The first eye was affected with glaucoma, alleged to have followed a blow from a cow's tail. Iridectomy and temporary improvement were later followed by inflammatory changes in the uveal tract, and the eye had to be enucleated eight weeks after the primary injury, on account of high tension. Soon after enucleation of the first eye, the previously healthy right eye developed severe iridocyclitis with complete posterior synechia and occlusio pupillae. In this eye also secondary glaucoma occurred, two iridectomies were done without success, and enucleation became necessary.

The alleged trauma probably had nothing to do with the loss of either eye, inasmuch as there was no sign of any ocular injury when the patient was first seen, six days after the accident was stated to have happened. The author raises the question whether the iridectomy done on the left eye was the starting point of sympathetic disturbance in the right. Although the iridectomy wound was closed externally, it gaped on its inner aspect, and the stump of the iris was incarcerated in the wound. The histologic changes described by Fuchs as characteristic of sympathetic ophthalmia were present in both eyes. In the "exciting" eye the part most affected was the posterior region of the choroid; whereas in the "sympathizing" eye the anterior section of the uveal tract was most involved. The patient was a candidate for industrial compensation.

Sattler, C. H. Anatomic Study of a Case of Blindness Following Injections of Arsacetin. (Graefe's Archiv f. Ophthalm., LXXXI, p. 546).

Hitherto, recorded observations of ocular disease following injections of arsacetin have been clinical only. Sattler is now able to report the post-mortem findings in a case of arsacetin amaurosis. The patient, a woman of 49 years, was given in the course of thirty-one days a total of 4.8 gm. of the drug, in eight intramuscular injections of 0.6 gm. each. She was suffering from pernicious anemia, and was thoroughly acquainted with the risk to her eyes before the treatment was commenced. Visual disturbances began six weeks after the first arsacetin injection. A week later, although the sight was decidedly obscured, there was no central scotoma. Two months after the first injection both eyes were absolutely blind, and the ophthalmoscopic picture was that of typical optic atrophy. The patient died five weeks later. Microscopic examination showed a simple degeneration of the nerve elements, without any indication of an inflammatory process. In the first neuron, the external granular layer and the layer of rods and cones, no changes could be recognized. In the second neuron, moderate degenerative changes were found in individual nuclei of the inner granular layer. In the third neuron there were extensive alterations. These were more marked in the peripheral part of the neuron; that is, the ganglion cells and optic nerve, than in the central part—the optic tract. The ganglion cells had undergone chromatolysis and vacuolization, their nerve fibers had disappeared, and there was slight increase of glial tissue. The papillomacular bundle was less affected than the other fiber bundles.

Von Szily, A. Processes Accompanying the Earliest Formation of Nerve Fibers in the Optic Nerve. Graefe's Archiv. f. Ophthalm., lxxxi, p. 67.)

One group of authors has declared that the optic nerve fibers arise within the cells of the primary optic stalk, surrounded by a protoplasmic sheath; whereas another group describes the fibres as pushing themselves forward as naked neurofibrils between the displaced cells of the optic stalk. Von Szily reports the results of observations of an extensive embryologic material; the feature of special interest being the occurrence of physiologic degeneration in the optic stalk during normal development.

A twelve-day rabbit embryo showed degenerative changes in the middle portions of the optic stalk, no such changes being found either in the vicinity of the attachment of the stalk to the eye, or at the cerebral end of the stalk. In a fifteen-day embryo the broken-down cells were almost completely absorbed. Transverse sections of the first bundles of nerve fibers were recognizable. They occurred only in the center of the canals which had resulted from the degenerative process. The appearance of further nerve fibers was in every case preceded by tracts of degeneration.

The author rejects the thought that the degeneration might have been secondary to development of the fibers. He regards his findings as supporting the view of His, that the axis cylinder always grows in the direction of least resistance; and also as giving more definite meaning to the chemotactic action postulated by Ramon y Cajal for the development of young nerve fibers.

Ophthalmic Journals

American Journal of Ophthalmology, St. Louis, Mo.
Anales de Oftalmologia, Mexico City, Mexico.
Annales d'Oculistique, Paris, France.
Annali di Ottalmologia, Pavia, Italy.
Annals of Ophthalmology, St. Louis, Mo.
Archiv für Augenheilkunde, Wiesbaden, Germany.
Albrecht v. Graefe's Archiv für Ophthalmologie, Leipsic, Germany.
Archiv für vergleichende Ophthalmologie, Leipsic, Germany.
Archives d'Ophtalmologie, Paris, France.
Archives of Ophthalmology, New York, N. Y.
Archivio di Ottalmologia, Naples, Italy.
Archivos de Oftalmologia Hispano-Americanos, Barcelona, Spain.
Atti dell'Associazione Ottalmologica Italiana, Pavia, Italy.
Beiträge zur Augenheilkunde, Leipsic, Germany.
Centralblatt für praktische Augenheilkunde, Leipsic, Germany.
La Clinica Oculistica, Rome, Italy.
La Clinique Ophtalmologique, Paris, France.
Journal Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology, Chicago, Ill.
Journal Ophthalmology, Otology and Laryngology, Lancaster, Pa.
Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde, Stuttgart, Germany.
Mitteilungen aus der Augenklinik des Carolinischen Medico-Chirurgischen Instituts, Jena, Germany.
Nippon Gankwa Gakukwai Zasshi, Tokyo, Japan.
Ophthalmic Literature, Denver, Colo.
Ophthalmic Record, Chicago, Ill.
Ophthalmic Review, London, England.
L'Ophtalmologie Provinciale, Tours, France.
Ophthalmology, Seattle, Wash.
Ophthalmoscope, London, England.
Postep Okulistyczny, Krakow, Russia.
Pratica Oculistica, Rome, Italy.
Progresso Ottalmologico, Palermo, Italy.
Recueil d'Ophtalmologie, Paris, France.
Revue Générale d'Ophtalmologie, Paris, France.
Revue Internationale d'Hygiène et de Thérapeutique Oculaires, Paris, France.
Rivista Italiana di Ottalmologia, Rome, Italy.
Sammlung Zwangloser Abhandlungen aus dem Gebiete der Augenheilkunde, Halle a. S. Germany.
Viestnik Ophthalmologie, Moscow, Russia.
Wochenschrift für Therapie und Hygiene des Auges, Dresden, Germany.
Zeitschrift für Augenheilkunde, Berlin, Germany.

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